THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) A recent study on child abuse has revealed that child abuse is widespread across the country. It includes different forms of abuse, like physical, sexual, emotional and neglect of girl child in different settings like family environment, schools, institutions, working place and on streets. The report of the study is available at the website of the Ministry of Women and Child Development at *www.wcd.nic.in.*

(b) There are various factors which make children vulnerable to abuse, such as social, economic, cultural, factors and illiteracy and poverty.

(c) There are several provisions available at present for protection of children from abuse, which include Constitutional provisons (Article 14, 15, 21, 23, 24, 39) Legislations (Indian Penal Code, Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children) Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, Policies (National Policy on Children, National Charter for Children), Plans (National Plan of Action for Children), Schemes and programmes (Programmes for Juvenile Justice, Integrated Programme for Street Children), (Childline service, Shishu Greha Scheme, Scheme for Working Children in need of Care and Protection, National Child Labour Project, Pilot Project to combat trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers). National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has also been set up for ensuring child rights. Among the new initiatives being taken for protecting children is *a* comprehensive legislation on offences against children and the launching of an Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

Committee's Report on Dargah Ajmer Shareef

*453. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed to look into the affairs of Dargah Ajmer Shareef has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the findings and recommendation thereof; and

(c) by when the report will be placed in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is being examined.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Population of Other Backward Classes

†*454. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made efforts to collect information from State Governments to ascertain the population of Other Backward Classes in the country;

(b) if so, the information provided by State Government regarding the population of Other Backward Classes in their respective States; and

(c) the official documents which are the source for providing such information by them?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is as follows: *Details of OBC Population furnished by State/Union Territories*

SI. No.	Name of the State	Population	Source of Information
1	2	3	
1.	Andhra Pradesh		Data on behalf of Andhra Pradesh Commission for Backward Classes, estimates of 1986
2.	Bihar	3,12,58,924	Backward Classes. District-wise data collected by Panchayat Raj Directorate in 1994.
		3,13,03,226	

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.